

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid supply method that prepares a solution by continuously supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid circulation tube, that uses a liquid supply apparatus that comprises:

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and
a supply liquid circulation tube formed in a hollow fiber shape that causes the supply liquid to flow from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm,
when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P1 of the supply liquid in the supply section and a pressure P2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid circulation tube always satisfy the formula $P1 - P2 > 0$;
 $P1/P2$ is 1.01 to 10;
P1 is controlled so as to maintain a constant level;
the primary fluid is ultrapure water;
the supply liquid is an electrolytic aqueous solution; and
an electrolyte concentration of the primary fluid to which the supply liquid is supplied is between 0.00001 and 0.1 percent by mass,
wherein a supply quantity of the supply liquid can be determined without performing feedback control, and
the supply liquid circulation tube is made from a material selected from the group consisting of fluorine resin, polyolefin resin, silicone based resins, polyethylene based resins, polypropylene based resins and poly(4-methylpentene-1) based resins.

Claims 2-5: (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 1, wherein a supply quantity of the supply liquid is between 0.001 and 10 cm³/ minute.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 6, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between 1/1000000 and 1/1000.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A liquid supply apparatus that prepares a solution by continuously supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid circulation tube, the liquid supply apparatus comprising:

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and

a supply liquid circulation tube formed in a hollow fiber shape that causes the supply liquid to flow from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm,

when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P1 of the supply liquid in the supply section and a pressure P2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid circulation tube always satisfy the formula $P1 - P2 > 0$;

$P1/P2$ is 1.01 to 10;

$P1$ is controlled so as to maintain a constant level;

the primary fluid is ultrapure water;

the supply liquid is an electrolytic aqueous solution; and
an electrolyte concentration of the primary fluid to which the supply liquid is supplied is between 0.00001 and 0.1 percent by mass,

wherein a supply quantity of the supply liquid can be determined without performing feedback control, and

the supply liquid circulation tube is made from a material selected from the group consisting of fluorine resin, polyolefin resin, silicone based resins, polyethylene based resins, polypropylene based resins and poly(4-methylpentene-1) based resins.

Claim 9: (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 1, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between 1/1000000 and 1/1000.

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The liquid supply apparatus ~~method~~ according to claim 8, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between 1/1000000 and 1/1000.

Claim 13 (Canceled)